

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A side impact beam for incorporation in a motor vehicle, in particular in a vehicle door, comprising a profiled section of sheet metal having at least two longitudinal beads in side-by-side disposition, each bead having an apex and two flanks depending from the apex, thereby defining an inner flank and an outer flank, wherein the inner flanks of the beads confront one another and are interconnected by a center web, and wherein the inner flanks are disposed in V-shaped relationship at an angle of equal to or greater than 25°.
2. The side impact beam of claim 1, wherein the angle is equal to or smaller than 60°.
3. The side impact beam of claim 1, wherein the neighboring flanks of the beads have a length which is shorter than a length of the outer flanks of the beads.
4. The side impact beam of claim 1, wherein the neighboring flanks of the beads have a length which is shorter than a length of the outer flanks of the beads by about 25% to 50%.

5. The side impact beam of claim 1, wherein the inner and outer flanks of the beads have a straight configuration, said apex of each bead and said center web being curved to form an arc.
6. The side impact beam of claim 1, wherein the outer flanks terminate in longitudinal edges, and further comprising a flange connected to the longitudinal edge of the outer flank of one of the beads and extending transversely from the outer flank of one of the beads, and a flange connected to the longitudinal edge of the outer flank of the other one of the beads and extending transversely from the outer flank of the other one of the beads.
7. The side impact beam of claim 6, wherein the flanks and the longitudinal edges define a transition area which has a rounded configuration.
8. The side impact beam of claim 1, wherein the profiled section has a wall thickness between 1.0 mm to 3.0 mm.